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REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in this Application. The following Groups of claims have been distinguished, as follows, by the Examiner:

Group I – Claims 1-12, 15, 16, 22, and 23 drawn to CN containing compounds and the method of their preparation, classified in class 558, and subclass 308;

Group II – Claims 13, 19, and 21 drawn to OCOR containing compounds and the method of their preparation, classified in class 554, subclass 161; and

Group III – Claims 14, 17, and 18 drawn to N containing compounds and the method of their preparation, classified in class 564, subclass 305.

Please note that the Office has not indicated to which group Claim 20 should be grouped. Claim 20 depends from Claim 17, which is set forth in Group III, above; therefore, Applicants submit that for the purposes of the Election/Restriction requirement, Claim 20 should be considered a member of Group III.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect with full traversal Group I (Claims 1-12, 15, 16, 22, and 23).

Under 35 U.S.C. § 121 an application may properly be required to be restricted to one of two or more claimed inventions only if they are able to support separate patents and are independent and distinct inventions. See MPEP 803. However, even where the claims are able to support separate patents and are independent and distinct inventions and the search and examination of the entire application can be made **without serious burden**, the Examiner must examine the application on its merits, even though it includes claims to independent and distinct inventions. See MPEP 803

It is respectfully submitted that the search classification for each Invention group substantially overlaps. As indicated by the title to the Application, the presently claimed invention relates to "Fluorinated Aromatics." The compounds and processes for their preparation as presently claimed share a fluorinated aromatic structure which is at the

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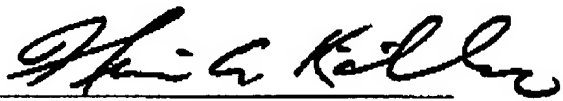
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core of the Examiner's search. Since a search can be concurrently performed for Groups I, II, and III, Applicants respectfully submit the Examiner will not be seriously burdened by searching and considering the inventions as described in all the presently filed claims. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the restriction requirement between the inventions of Groups I, II, and III.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the claims of non-elected group or other claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications at a later date.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or need any additional information from Applicants' attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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